



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**July 6, 2006**

**For immediate release**

**1. Littlefield Lake residents asked for input on water quality improvement plan**

**LITTLEFIELD LAKE RESIDENTS ASKED FOR INPUT ON  
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

EXIRA — Iowans interested in improving water quality at Littlefield Lake can attend a public meeting July 18. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the beach shelter at Littlefield Lake, located four miles southeast of Exira on Highway F58.

The DNR will present a draft water quality improvement plan at the meeting. The plan includes suggestions for improving water quality through conservation efforts in the watershed, or the area of land that drains into the lake. After receiving public comments, the DNR will submit the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The water quality improvement plan is also known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain water quality standards.

High levels of algae and turbidity, or cloudy water, have led to the water quality problems at Littlefield Lake. The high algae levels develop from increased levels of nutrients in the lake, particularly phosphorous. The poor water clarity is a result of the algae blooms and also from sediment suspended in the water.

The cloudy water comes from sediment from two sources: the land area that drains to Littlefield Lake, and re-suspension from within the lake. High levels of algae and turbidity make the less visually appealing and less desirable for uses like swimming, but do not pose a specific human health threat.

The DNR will accept comments on the draft plan through August 7. Copies of the draft plan are available from the following sources, which can also be used to submit comments:

- Internet: [www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html)
- E-mail: [chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us)
- Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791
- Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.**